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AUGUST 1.

The President, Dr. **RUSCHENBERGER**, in the chair.

Twenty-four members present.

Diurnal Motion in Liatris pycnostachya.—Mr. **MEEHAN** called attention to a peculiar diurnal motion he had observed in *Liatris pycnostachya.* When throwing up its flower stems the top was always curved over towards the east in the early morning, nearly erect at midday, and towards the west at sundown. For commercial purposes he had thousands of plants growing, and the habit was uniform in all. The motion was evidently vertical, and not in a horizontal direction, and this still left it open to ascertain how the point turned towards the east for its early morning start. As soon as the flower spike approached its full growth the motion ceases.

Fasciated Branches.—In reference to a broadly flattened branch of a sweet potato on the table, to which attention had been directed by a member, Mr. **MEEHAN** said these branches were found on numerous plants, and there was no reason why all plants may not be found to produce them. They were species of fasciations, which took different forms at times. In trees they often appeared as "crow's nests." The old theory referred them to over-luxuriousness; but in a paper published in the Troy Proceedings of the American Association it was shown to be just the reverse. In union there is strength, in vegetable as in other bodies. Any tendency to a multiplicity of small branches on a tree instead of making a few large ones, all other things being equal, is an evidence of lower vitality. And this was proved by these fasciations. In severe winters fasciated branches were the first to die. Often they were the only branches that were destroyed.

Again, it had been shown in his papers before the American Association and before the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, that only when a flowering portion of a plant was in the best conditions to maintain its hold on life, in other words in the highest conditions of vitality, did it produce pistils, or female flowers. With a lowered or depreciated vitality the male organs of the flower or male conditions were favored, and it was a singular fact that whenever these fasciations flowered, the female organs were nearly always abortive, and stamens and petals increased at their expense. These were some of the facts which had proved the old notion that over-luxuriousness, in the sense of high vital power, had nothing to do with fasciations, but rather the reverse.

The final cause of this defective vitality was imperfect nutri-